

Reins in unnecessary spending; Ensures Oregon's South Coast is protected

□

WASHINGTON, DC – The House of Representatives passed an amendment offered by Rep. Anthony Weiner (N-NY) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) that restored funding for the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program, which hires police officers and provides for technology to combat drug trafficking and drug usage in communities. In the Republican continuing resolution (CR), the COPS program was slashed by 65%, eliminating 1,300 officer positions and decimating the funding for technology used to combat drug problems in rural communities. The amendment is paid for by reigning in government waste in the NASA Cross Agency Support Account.

“We need to preserve essential functions of government that keep all of our communities safe and secure,” said DeFazio. “A cut in COPS would have stretched our woefully understaffed sheriffs in rural communities too thin and exposed these communities to drug traffickers and cartels.”

The Cross Agency Support Account at NASA has ballooned from \$500 million in FY2007 to \$3 billion last year. This account was one of the few that saw an increase under the Republican CR. The account was a bureaucratic fund created for administrative costs rather than scientific innovation.

“When a criminal breaks down your door in rural Oregon, you can’t call NASA for help,” said DeFazio. “A better use of these finite federal dollars is to protect our communities.”

Since 2005, the South Coast Interagency Narcotics Team (SCINT) has secured an earmark through DeFazio and has received COPS funding to fight the increasing drug epidemic in Coos and Curry Counties. SCINT is funded through grants and provides the necessary resources and manpower to reduce the impact of drugs and drug related violent crimes in the region.

“Republicans were ready to dramatically slash the COPS program in favor of NASA’s bureaucratic boondoggle. It’s rare Congress gets the priorities of the nation correct, but passage of this amendment is a boon to the safety of our communities.”

To access the radio actuality:

For Internet Explorer users:

1. Go to the following website: www.defazio.house.gov
2. Select “radio actualities” from the “press” drop down menu on the top right hand side.

Right click on the file entitled “ [2.16.11 DeFazio Reacts to Passage of COPS Amendment](#) ” from the menu to save the file on your computer.

For Mozilla Firefox users:

1. Go to the following website: www.defazio.house.gov
2. Select “radio actualities” from the “press” drop down menu on the top right hand side.

Right click on the file entitled “ [2.16.11 DeFazio Reacts to Passage of COPS Amendment](#) ” from the menu to save the file on your computer.

3. Choose "Save Link as..." from the menu to save the file on your computer.

To access the floor speech on YouTube:

1. Go to the following website: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AC_f0488c2Y

If you have any problems or questions about downloading the feed, please contact Jen Gilbreath at (202) 225-6416.

--30--